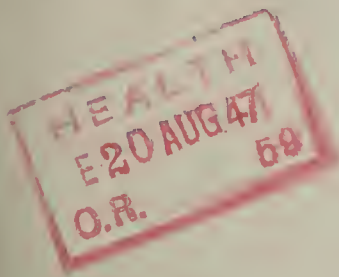


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MELTON MOWBRAY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1946.

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MELTON MOWBRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL   OFFICER   OF   HEALTH

and

SANITARY   INSPECTOR

1 9 4 6.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, we deal briefly in this report with matters within our responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine:-

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ... ..	...	...	...	5,658.
Registrar General's estimate of population...	...	...	...	11,740.
Number of inhabited houses. ... ..	...	...	...	3,360.
Rateable value ... ..	...	...	...	£77,694.
Sum represented by a penny rate.. ... ..	...	...	...	£298.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate ...	130	117	247
	Illegitimate ...	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>
		<u>140</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>263</u>
Still Births	Legitimate ...	9	1	10
	Illegitimate ...	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... ..		...	...	22.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales ... ..		...	...	19.1
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Number of Deaths... ..		81	62	143
Death Rate per 1,000 population ....		...	...	12.2
Death Rate for England and Wales ... ..		...	...	11.5
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age				
Legitimate		6	2	8
Illegitimate		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
		<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>



# Vital Statistics (Continued)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	34
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	...	...	43

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...
Syphilitic diseases	...	...
Influenza	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus..	...	...
Cancer of uterus	...	...
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...
Cancer of breast	...	...
Cancer of other sites	...	...
Diabetes	...	...
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...
Heart disease...	...	...
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...
Other respiratory diseases..	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...
Other digestive diseases	...	...
Nephritis	...	...
Puerperal causes	...	...
Other maternal causes	...	...
Premature Birth.	...	...
Congenital Malformation - birth injury, infant diseases	...	...
Suicide	...	...
Other Violent Causes..	...	...
All other causes	...	...
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>81</u>	<u>62</u>

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Camb.)

Medical Officer of Health for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

H. Buxton, M.R.San. I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector and Meat & Foods Officer.





## 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory and the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Leicester:-

Milk examinations (bacteriological)	...	77
Sputa for T.B....	...	68
Urine (general and bacteriological)	...	62
Blood for Wassermann and other tests	...	46
Swabs for diphtheria...	...	31
Milk for Phosphatase Test	...	13
Urine for T.B....	...	12
Sewage and water analyses	...	15
Faeces	...	586
C.S.F.	...	1
Nasal swabs	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	3
		<u>916</u>

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. (i) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a) from wells	...	Nil.
(b) from piped supply	...	15

13 samples for bacteriological examination and 2 samples for chemical analysis were all satisfactory.

The reports obtained show that the water supply was satisfactory as regards quality, but some supplies had to be restricted, particularly during the summer months. Efforts are being made to obtain an additional supply, and negotiations are being made for a supply from Leicester City. Practically all houses are supplied with water from the works directly to the houses.

This chronic shortage of water is a major sanitary problem confronting the Council. Lack of water is not only an inconvenience, but a menace to the health of the inhabitants. This matter will be referred to again in the section dealing with infectious diseases.

### (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1946 ... 8

No new cesspools were constructed during the year and none were abolished

## 2. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1946:-

(a) Pail Closets	...	9
(b) Water Closets	...	3,440

## 3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is collected by direct labour for disposal at the Destructor Works.

Practically all houses are provided with moveable dustbins, although a considerable number of bins are in urgent need of replacement due to the shortage of supply.





## Public Cleansing (Continued).

House refuse and salvage material are collected as far as possible weekly throughout the area, and larger accumulations are collected as requested.

Good progress was made in the salvaging of all classes of materials, the value of the salvage dealt with during the year being £1,855.

4.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received	...	133.
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered...	...	391.

Nature of inspections:-	<u>Number of Inspections</u>	<u>Revisits</u>
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	469	262
Animal keeping	11	5
Bakehouses	10	5
Dairies and cowsheds	26	31
Drainage Works	29	63
Food premises	31	87
Rats and mice destruction..	32	60
Refuse collection and disposal	8	10
Schools	6	3
Shops	10	9
Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection	1	450
Verminous premises and scabies	33	49
Water supplies	8	5
Workshops, etc.	10	8
Other inspections	21	31
	<u>705</u>	<u>1,078</u>

### N O T I C E S

<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st January	24	10
Issued during the year	75	104
Complied with during the year...	79	108
Statutory action necessary	-	-
Outstanding 31st December	20	6

### 5. SHOPS.

Action taken under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934:-

5 defects found relating to sanitary conveniences, and all were remedied.

### 6. REGULATED BUILDINGS.

	<u>Number in District</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Common Lodging Houses	2	12



## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

- (a) Publicly owned. One Children's Swimming Pool owned by the Town Estate and one Paddling Pool owned by the Urban District Council.
- (b) Privately owned. One open-air swimming pool.

## H O U S I N G

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (a) (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 141
- (ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose 382
- (b) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 141

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action... 121

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING YEAR. Nil.

### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

Complete details of all overcrowding in the District cannot be given, but, from the information supplied by the 550 applicants for Council Houses, there are many cases of overcrowding, and the position is becoming more difficult.

A number of distressing cases have been brought to our notice where unhealthy conditions caused by overcrowding are aggravated by tuberculosis of an infectious type. It is easy to see how this disease will be spread in these circumstances with tragic results to the unfortunate families.

The only satisfactory solution to this problem is the speeding up of the housing programme for the provision of new houses.

In addition to conditions of overcrowding, there are a considerable number of houses in the town which in normal times would have been condemned and demolished. All that we can do is to ask that urgent and necessary repairs should be carried out, and even this may be impossible owing to the shortage of materials. It is only when a house becomes really dangerous that steps can be taken to have it condemned. The inevitable result is a general deterioration in Housing conditions.

### 5. NEW HOUSES AND CONVERSIONS.

50 "Spooner" type temporary pre-fabricated houses were completed during the year.

7 houses were erected and 4 conversions carried out by private enterprise.





# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## (a) MILK SUPPLY.

	<u>Cowkeepers.</u>	<u>Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).</u>
Number on register ... ..	21	9
Number of inspections of premises ... ..	36	21
Number of contraventions outstanding from 1945...	5	1
Number of contraventions found during the year...	6	4
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	6	5
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st December	5	Nil.

### Total Contraventions.

	<u>Outstanding from previous year</u>	<u>Found during year</u>	<u>Remedied during year</u>	<u>Outstanding 31st Dec.</u>
Cleansing	Nil	5	5	Nil.
Structural alterations	5	2	2	5
Utensils	Nil	2	2	Nil.
Other	1	1	2	Nil.

## MILK SAMPLING.

42 samples of milk were taken during the year as follows:-

<u>Class</u>	<u>Number of samples for bact. exam.</u>	<u>Number satisfactory.</u>	<u>Number unsatisfactory</u>
Designated	6	6	Nil.
Ordinary	36	34	2

In the case of unsatisfactory samples an inspection is made of the premises, advice given on methods of production and repeat samples taken.

2 repeat samples taken were satisfactory.

## (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Regional Slaughterhouses in area ... ..	1
Number of animals slaughtered ... ..	11,349
Number of inspections of meat at times of slaughter. ... ..	450
Number of knacker yards in area ... ..	1
Number of visits to knacker yards.. ... ..	8





# CARCASES INSPECTED & CONDEMNED

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	TOTALS
Number killed and inspected	1,599	616	1,208	7,433	493	11,349
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u> <u>Whole carcasses condemned</u>	8	18	8	52	8	<u>Weight in lbs.</u> 15,457
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	338	211	2	53	3	10,448
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	21.6%	37.2%	0.8%	1.4%	2.2%	25,905
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>  Whole carcasses condemned	22	36	Nil	Nil	6	35,506
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	166	130	1	Nil	14	8,231
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.8%	26.9%	0.08%	Nil	4.1%	43,737
Total weight in lbs.						69,642

31 tons, 1 cwt, 90 lbs. of meat condemned during the  
year compared with 34 tons, 5 cwt. 96 lbs. last year.

	<u>Number of inspections</u>
Meat shops, Meat stores, etc. ...	63
Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale..	55



Meat & Other Foods (Continued).

The following foods were condemned and voluntarily surrendered:-

710 tins meat.  
91 " milk.  
66 " vegetables.  
64 " fish.  
7 " fruit.

938 tins,

and 1,094 lbs. of various foods.

Food exposed for sale in the open Market is regularly inspected.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1946:-

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Dysentery	469	-	-
Pneumonia	35	1	6
Erysipelas	5	1	-
Scarlet Fever	23	15	-
Measles	85	1	-
Whooping Cough	31	1	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	2	2	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	-	1

Disease	<u>A G E G R O U P S</u>											
	Under one	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and Over
Dysentery	11	11	8	13	9	36	27	38	117	79	78	42
Pneumonia	1	1	2	-	1	2	2	1	6	4	7	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	3	1	15	1	-	1	1	1	-
Measles	1	1	14	11	11	43	2	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	4	8	6	3	8	1	-	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Dysentery.

In the early months of the year, there was a considerable outbreak of the "Sonne" type of dysentery in the town, 469 cases were notified, but undoubtedly a much larger number of people suffered from the disease, which was more unpleasant than dangerous. In many cases the symptoms were so slight or so soon over that a doctor was not consulted, but in old people the debilitating effects were sometimes serious. This type of dysentery is spread chiefly through the infection of food by persons who are suffering from the disease, and the measures taken to deal with the epidemic were designed to stop this as far as possible.

(Continued).....





## Dysentery (Continued).

A circular letter was sent to the Medical Practitioners in the town, making the following suggestions:-

- " 1. Notification of the disease should be made, especially if this occurs in people engaged in handling or preparing food.
2. All cases of Diarrhoea should be examined bacteriologically. Containers for faeces specimens and the address of the Laboratory can be obtained on application to the Health Office, 10, High Street, Melton Mowbray.
3. An effort to cut down the period of excretion of the dysentery organism by treatment of the cases with the Sulphonamide group of drugs should be made.
4. Attention should be paid to the trade of the contacts as well as the cases, and where the contacts are engaged in food trades their faeces should be examined for the presence of the dysentery organisms, even if they do not exhibit any symptoms.
5. Patients should be instructed about general hygienic matters, especially about the importance of washing their hands after defaecation, and no patient should be allowed to prepare food for the rest of the household while they are infectious. "

In addition a statement was issued to the local newspapers giving information to the public about the nature of the disease and the precautions which should be observed.

The water shortage in the town, although not the direct cause of the epidemic, made things much more difficult. Owing to the water supply being cut off it was impossible for many households to carry out the advice on hygiene. It does not require much imagination to visualise conditions in houses where several members of the family were suffering from dysentery and the lavatories were not working.

If we are to keep infectious disease under control, the Council must provide the inhabitants of the town with an adequate water supply so that a repetition of such insanitary conditions will not occur.

## T U B E R C U L O S I S

AGE GROUPS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
15 - 25	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	4	-	1	3	-	3	-	1





### TREATMENT FOR SCABIES.

A centre was opened in May 1942, for the out-patient treatment of Scabies cases from the Melton Mowbray Urban and the Melton & Belvoir Rural Districts.

As expected, with the end of war conditions the number of cases has diminished. Only 13 cases from the Urban District were treated during the year, compared with 41 cases last year, 73 in 1944, 195 in 1943, and 246 in 1942.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Good progress continued with the scheme for immunisation of children against Diphtheria.

A special Birthday Card, together with a card of Consent for immunisation was sent when each child reached one year of age. Arrangements were made for free treatment by private Doctors if desired and sessions were held at Egerton Lodge every four weeks, when the injections were given by your Medical Officer of Health.

Much valuable propaganda work and advice to parents on immunisation has been given by the local Health Visitor.

During the year 205 children completed the full course of immunisation.

The following figures may be of interest:

Between 1 & 5 years of age.    5 - 15 years

Percentage of child  
population immunised at  
31st December, 1946.

87%

93%

Number of children immunised against diphtheria since  
the scheme was started in 1941:-

	<u>No. Immunised.</u>
1941	1,946.
1942	565
1943	398
1944	226
1945	224
1946	205
	<u>3,564</u>

Cases of diphtheria notified since 1940

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 15 years</u>	<u>Over 15 years</u>
1940	6	7	6
1941	10	38	12
1942	3	4	1
1943	Nil	Nil	2
1944	Nil	Nil	Nil
1945	Nil	3*	Nil
1946	Nil	Nil	1

\* One of these was a very mild case in a child who had been immunised.



Diphtheria Immunisation (Continued).

It is hoped that a scheme will soon be adopted for giving a boosting dose to children just before or soon after going to School.

-----oOo-----

We have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servants,

J. YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health,

H. BUXTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

